

THRU : Chief, Intelligence Information Staff, ORR  
Chief, Industrial Division, ORR  
Chief, Guided Missile Branch, D/T

30 October 1953

Requirement to Travel by Rail Leningrad to Kharkov

REF : [REDACTED] 25X1A6b

Background

25X1X4

In August 1953 the [REDACTED] requested a rail trip from Leningrad to Kharkov via Vitebsk, Smolensk and Bryansk. This requested route was altered by the Soviets to a route Leningrad, Kirovsk, Tarybok, Rybach, Vyazma, Virov, Bryansk to Kharkov. (Secret)

The requested rail route covers a significant portion of the rail line Leningrad to Odessa, a line suspected as a main logistic support line for possible IRBM launch sites. This suggests that the Soviets may have had good reason for shunting travellers to an alternate route.

Requirement

25X1X4

1. It is requested that the [REDACTED] be advised of the interest of this office in this report and that they be requested to again attempt to make the rail trip Leningrad-Kharkov via Vitebsk, Smolensk and Bryansk.

2. The significant guided missile deployment indicators which might be observable on this route are:

- a. Spur line construction activity.
- b. Extensive construction or clearing operations close to the rail line.
- c. Guided missile rail transport car or guided missile trains.
- d. Spur lines with a wide turn radii and ending in concrete pads.

~~SECRET~~

SUBJECT: Requirement to travel by Rail Leningrad to Kharkov

• Sighting of heavy duty crane vehicles, mobile communication vans, and launcher-erectors either on wheels or on trucks.

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]

Distribution:

Orig and 1 - Addressee

1 - D/I

1 - ~~CIA-DO~~ 25X1A9a

2 - I/GM

25X1A9a  
ORR/I/GM:O [REDACTED] /4291 (30 Oct 58)

25X1A9a  
[REDACTED]